

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action of April 23, 2007.

The Examiner objected to claims 5 and 15. Applicants have made the requested corrections.

The Examiner stated that claims 3, 6-8, 14-15, 17, and 18 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner is thanked for identifying allowable subject matter. Applicants have rewritten the claims into independent form in the manner indicated by the Examiner.

The allowable subject matter of original claim 3 was rewritten into independent form by amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3. New claims 23-26 are dependent from claim 1 and repeat limitations of original claims 9-12. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4-5 and 23-26 are in condition for allowance.

The allowable subject matter of original claim 6 was rewritten into independent form by amending claim 6 to include the limitations of original claim 1. Claims 7-8 are dependent from claim 6. Claims 9-12 were amended to be dependent from claim 6. By virtue of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-12 are in condition for allowance.

The allowable subject matter of original claim 14 was rewritten into independent form by amending claim 13 to include the limitations of original claim 14. Claim 15 was amended to be dependent from claim 13. By virtue of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13 and 15 are in condition for allowance.

The allowable subject matter of original claim 17 was rewritten into independent form by amended claim 16 to include the limitations of claim 17. Claims 18-22 are dependent from claim 16. By virtue of this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16 and 18-22 are in condition for allowance.

The allowable subject matter of original claim 18 was rewritten into independent form by drafting a new claim 27 that includes the limitations of original claims 16 and 18. Dependent claims 28-31 repeat limitations of original claims 19-22. It is therefore respectfully submitted that new claims 27-31 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants have also made several grammatical and typographical corrections for the purposes of improving claim clarity and the consistency with which terms are used in the claims.

These include consistently using the terms "MAC module," "external network," and "host" in claims 6, 7, 13, and 15. Amended claim 1 also clarifies that the protocol conversion is used to generate a de-encapsulated parallel GE data stream to more clearly track the limitations of the following element.

Applicants may eventually desire to pursue one or more rejected claims in a continuation application. Consequently, while Applicants have chosen to proceed for now with claims the Examiner indicated were allowable, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendment should not be considered prejudicial or a waiver of the right of Applicants to pursue rejected claims and make substantive remarks in response to the Examiner's claim rejections in a continuation application.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant believes that all rejections are rendered moot, and respectfully submits that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any residual issues that can be resolved through a telephone call.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

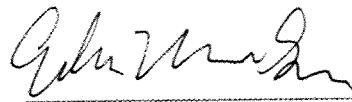
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